

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS TO INCLUDE VETERANS WHO ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, GENDER DIVERSE, GENDER NON-CONFORMING, INTERSEX, OR QUEER.

(a) EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (a)(2)(A) of section 544 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (v) the following new clause:

“(vi) veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, gender non-conforming, intersex, or queer.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Clause (vi) of section 544(a)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, shall apply to appointments made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3918. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1064. TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO EXPOSURE OF VETERANS TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

(a) HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to health care personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs education and training to identify, treat, and assess the impact on veterans of illnesses related to exposure to toxic substances and inform such personnel of how to ask for additional information from veterans regarding exposure to different toxicants.

(b) BENEFITS PERSONNEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a training program for processors of claims under the laws administered by the Secretary who review claims for disability benefits relating to service-connected disabilities based on exposure to toxic substances.

(2) ANNUAL TRAINING.—Training provided to processors under paragraph (1) shall be provided not less frequently than annually.

SA 3919. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REPORT ON MATERIAL READINESS OF VIRGINIA CLASS SUBMARINES OF THE NAVY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the material readiness of the Virginia class submarines.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the number of components and parts that have required replacement prior to the end of their estimated useful life or scheduled replacement timeline, including efforts to increase the reliability of “life of ship” components.

(2) An assessment of the extent to which part and material shortages have impacted deployment and maintenance availability schedules, including an estimate of the number of active part cannibalizations or other actions taken to mitigate those impacts.

(3) An identification of the planned lead time to obtain key material for Virginia class submarines from shipbuilders and vendors.

(4) An identification of the actual lead time to obtain such material from shipbuilders and vendors.

(5) An identification of the cost increases of key components and parts for new construction and maintenance availabilities above planned material costs.

(6) An assessment of potential courses of action to improve the material readiness of the Virginia class submarines, including efforts to align new construction shipyards with maintenance shipyards and Naval Sea Systems Command to increase predictability of materials and purchasing power.

(7) Such recommendations as the Secretary may have for legislative changes, authorities, realignments, and administrative actions, including reforms of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, to improve the material readiness of the Virginia class submarines.

(8) Such other elements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3920. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . MICROLOAN PROGRAM DEFINITIONS.

Section 7(m)(11) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) the term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.”

SA 3921. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10. DEFINITION OF STATE.

Section 901(a)(2) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251(a)(2)) is amended by striking “Northern Mariana Islands” and all that follows through “Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” and inserting “Northern Mariana Islands;”.

SA 3922. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 376. IMPROVED OVERSIGHT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SHIPYARD INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM OF THE NAVY.

(a) UPDATED PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2022, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees an update to the plan of the Secretary for implementation of the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program of the Department of the Navy, with the objective of providing increased transparency for the actual costs and schedules associated with infrastructure optimization activities for shipyards covered by such program.

(2) UPDATED COST ESTIMATES.—The updated plan required under paragraph (1) shall include updated cost estimates comprising the most recent costs of capital improvement projects for each of the four public shipyards covered by the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the start of physical construction with respect to a covered project, the Secretary of the Navy or a designee of the Secretary shall brief each of the congressional defense committees on such project, regardless of the source of funding for such project.

(2) WRITTEN INFORMATION.—Before conducting a briefing under paragraph (1) with respect to a covered project, the Secretary of the Navy or a designee of the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees in writing the following information:

(A) An updated cost estimate for such project that—

(i) meets the standards of the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering for a Level 1 or Level 2 cost estimate; or

(ii) is an independent cost estimate.

(B) A schedule for such project that is comprehensive, well-constructed, credible, and